



# The Grebe

Mission of The Friends of  
Deer Flat:

*The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.*

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Volume 6, Issue 4

Winter 2011

## Notes from "The Coop"

When the wildlife viewing blind, "The Coop", was completed in late 2007, The Friends placed a notebook in the blind to allow visitors to record their wildlife sightings and to provide comments. Following is a list of wildlife recorded and some comments from visitors to the blind during the period of February 2008 to April 2010.

### Birds Recorded

American Coot	Northern Flicker
American Crow	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
American Goldfinch	Osprey w/fish
American Kestrel	Pine Siskin
American Robin	Red-tailed Hawk
American White Pelican	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Ring-billed Gull
Barn Swallow	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Black-billed Magpie	Song Sparrow
Black-capped Chickadee	Spotted Towhee
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Tree Swallow
Brown-headed Cowbird	Western Grebe
Cooper's Hawk	Western Screech Owl
California Quail	Western Tanager
Canada Goose	White-crowned Sparrow
Cassin's Finch (?)	Wood Duck
Dark-eyed Junco	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Downy Woodpecker	
European Starling	
Eared Grebe	
Greater Yellowlegs	
House Finch	
Lincoln Sparrow	
Mallard	
Mourning Dove	

### Other Wildlife Recorded

Cottontail  
Mule Deer  
Fox Squirrel  
Carp  
Butterflies  
Spiders

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*Mark your calendar...*

## Upcoming Events

### ***Scout Day***

Saturday, January 8th

### ***Lecture Series - Falconry: then and now***

Tuesday, January 11th, 7 p.m.

A **live hawk** will be present for this lecture discussing the practice of falconry from a historical and present-day perspective.

### ***Scout Day***

Saturday, February 5th

### ***Lecture Series - Stop Alien Invaders***

Tuesday, February 8th, 7 p.m.

Come discover control measures used to combat invasive weed species in Idaho, including mechanical, chemical, and cultural methods. The focus will be on biological control.

### ***Scout Day***

Saturday, March 5th

### ***Lecture Series - The Edible Yard***

Tuesday, March 8th, 7 p.m.

Learn creative ideas for incorporating edibles into your existing landscape

### ***Weed Warriors***

Saturday, March 19th, 9 to 11 a.m. - Help improve wildlife habitat. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**Scout Day Information.** Sign up your wolf, bear, and webelo Cub Scouts or Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Pre-registration is required. Call 467-9278 or e-mail [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) to pre-register.

## Upcoming Refuge Events:

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov)

The **Grebe** newsletter is published quarterly. If you have an article or photo that you would like to be included in a future newsletter, please contact Denise Hughes at [den.hug100@gmail.com](mailto:den.hug100@gmail.com)

## Notes from “The Coop”

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### Some Comments Recorded

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- ⇒ *Great Fun!*
- ⇒ *Thank you for the learning experience!*
- ⇒ *Didn't see much but did get a big hug from Mike.*
- ⇒ *Very nice nature.*
- ⇒ *Enjoyed walk. No Birds, but nice place.*
- ⇒ *Many Birds! Fun!*
- ⇒ *This is very neat...did not bring binoculars...too bad or we could have better recognized some of the smaller birds or one honking bird but could never see it.*
- ⇒ *God bless this bless...beautiful birds. Thank you Lord.*
- ⇒ *We ate a giant box of Fruit Loops while watching the birds.*
- ⇒ *April 17<sup>th</sup>...Water within 5 feet of blind and trail partially flooded.*
- ⇒ *Peace to all. It is not in what we saw, but in what we experienced...Stillness.*
- ⇒ *We had a great time watching the birds, bunnies, and bugs.*
- ⇒ *I love to take my two boys here. They love Lake Lowell.*
- ⇒ *Great birding spot! Thanks.*
- ⇒ *Saw spiders and birds all around.*
- ⇒ *We always enjoy coming to the refuge.*
- ⇒ *We liked the shack. The finches were cute.*
- ⇒ *Thanks so much for creating and maintaining this resource. It is a magical thing being able to watch birds like this.*
- ⇒ *The Coop is fun! The architecture makes the best blind I have seen.*
- ⇒ *What a wonderful surprise. I was out for a run this morning and decided to make my way up here to explore a nature trail and discovered this shack. I am running home to get my family and share it with them.*
- ⇒ *Saw a baby squirrel approach a young hawk on a branch. The bird turned and the squirrel ran off. Doubt he'll be doing that again.*
- ⇒ *I had to walk bear feet in the water to get to this place.*
- ⇒ *I saw a yellow bird. It was pretty-ful.*

### *Snow and Ice Alert*

During the winter months the trail to The Coop can be very slippery. Last winter we had several falls along the trail. For this reason the refuge management has closed the trail during extreme snowy and icy conditions. Please observe the trail closure signs and roped off areas.

## NWRA Releases its 2010 Annual Report

NWRA's newly released annual report highlights the organization's conservation successes for the past fiscal year – July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

NWRA brings a unique perspective and creative strategies to protect America's wildlife by leveraging the world's largest conservation program – the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 150-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System. NWRA does this by working closely with Refuge Friends groups and others to facilitate conservation beyond wildlife refuge boundaries – to protect species like desert tortoises, bald eagles, and Florida panthers.

Featured on the cover of the report is Carol Grant's stunning photograph of a West Indian Manatee basking in Three Sisters Spring. NWRA is proud to have recently completed a multi-year effort to protect these five natural warm water springs that provide important wintering habitat for endangered manatees.

What else makes NWRA one of the most effective wildlife conservation organizations in America? Click on the link to access the annual report: <http://www.refugeassociation.org/new-pdf-files/2010/NWRA-Annual-Report.pdf>



*Read our 2010 Annual Report.  
(Cover image, © Carol Grant)*

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## Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)

### Planning Schedule for 2011

Spring 2011.....Release draft alternatives  
Spring 2012..... Release draft CCP and EIS  
Winter 2012.....Complete final CCP and EIS

*Additional opportunities for the public to  
comment and provide input will be announced  
in future planning updates and on the website.*

## Hear Our Tweets

*By Greg Siekaniec*

*Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System*

The world is atwitter about Twitter, the social networking site – and the National Wildlife Refuge System has joined the flock.

Not only does the Refuge System have a Twitter site (<http://twitter.com/USFWSRefuges>), but we now have a Facebook account (<http://www.facebook.com/USFWSRefuges>), too. We hope you follow us on both – and ask your friends to do the same.

These are bold steps for the Refuge System, but they're not the first bold communications steps. Since late 2005, we've tested a variety of media – print, television and most recently radio – with public service announcements. We've done well, receiving hefty returns on our investments, both in free advertising time and space and in seeing an increase in the number of hits on our Web site.

Those media are still valuable. If you're like me, you still like to get your news from a paper delivered to your doorstep. But, like most of you, I've also moved over to new media, following the news on the Web.

After all, communication is not only about reaching traditional audiences; it is also about building new ones. That means Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and more.

You can't argue with the numbers.

Facebook's circulation has hit 500 million people worldwide. Twitter has more than 106 million accounts worldwide. Some of you might ask how anyone can communicate something meaningful on Twitter in just 140 characters. Well, we're learning – and we'll keep getting better at it.

The infamous banker robber Willie Sutton was reputed to have been asked, "Why do you keep robbing banks." His answer: "Because that's where the money is."

Twitter and Facebook? That's where an audience we desire resides.

On Twitter, we communicate about events, newsworthy tidbits and other happenings on refuges. On Facebook, we post daily updates offering intriguing facts, opportunities to be outdoors and invitations to share personal experiences on refuges. We look forward to generating lively discussions and broaden awareness of the Refuge System as people share the page with friends.

And we think you should join us, too – not only as fans of our Facebook page and followers on Twitter.

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## Tweets...(continued from page 6)

Those of you in Refuge Friends groups should consider your own entry into “new media.” Some of you already have made the plunge – and we congratulate you for your innovation and plain old guts. In fact, the Refuge System is helping Friends enter this new world with a special issue of our quarterly *Friends Forward* newsletter devoted to helping Friends figure out the new media landscape.

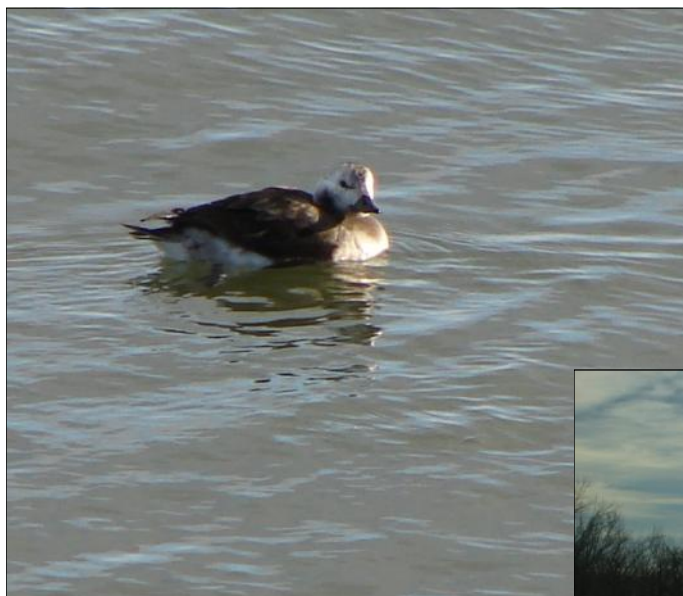
Beyond Twitter and Facebook, we will use cutting-edge communications technology as we develop a renewed vision for the Refuge System leading up to our Vision Conference in July 2011 and during the conference itself in Madison, WI.

We invite you to join us in the world of new media – and invite your most youthful friends, too. If we are to welcome a new generation to the wonders of natural resources, we have to do so in the realms where they communicate. And we'll do it in 140 characters, if that's what it takes to stay relevant and engaged.

See you in cyberspace.

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## Winter Sightings at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Top Left: An uncommon Long-tailed Duck at the lower dam.

Top Right: The lake from the Orchard Road dam

Bottom Right: Picnic area near the upper dam



## It's Time to renew your Membership

2011 is upon us, so **it's time to renew your membership**. Your gift is critical to our ongoing work to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, and is tax deductible. With your help, we can fund projects like the Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trips and help to educate the people of the Treasure Valley to the importance of the refuge.

For your convenience, there is a renewal form below. Our current members do so much more for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge than provide necessary financial support. FDFWR's credibility is greatly enhanced when we can point to **YOU** - a vital and growing membership from all walks of life from all over Idaho.

*Be a Friend! Join Today!*

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Telephone

Email



### Annual Membership Categories:

Owl (Senior & Student)	\$10
Deer (Individual)	\$15
Fox (Family)	\$25
Osprey	\$50
Eagle	\$100
Goldeneye	\$500

All contributions are tax deductible.  
Please print this page and return  
with a check payable to:  
Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge  
13751 Upper Embankment Road  
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046



**FRIENDS OF DEER  
FLAT WILDLIFE  
REFUGE**

13751 Upper Embankment  
Road  
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

***Executive Board:***

***President - Genevieve  
Johannsen (467-7515)  
Vice President - Vacant  
Secretary - Vacant  
Treasurer - Bob  
Christensen (454-2518)***

***Newsletter - Denise Hughes  
(850-5885)***

**We are on the web at:  
[www.fws.gov/deerflat/  
friends.htm](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/friends.htm)**

**To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge**

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in Spring 2011

## **Winter Weather at the Refuge**

Two female  
Mallards ride out  
the high winds and  
waves in December

